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43. (Four Times Amended) A system for exchanging signals relating to at least a bid and an offer, the system comprising:  
a network connected to workstations;  
a first workstation of said workstations, said first workstation sending a first signal to said network signaling a bid in response to an initial offer; and  
a second workstation of said workstations, said second workstation receiving a second signal indicative of said bid from said network and sending an acknowledgement of said received bid to said network, said second workstation having a confirmation timer for measuring a time elapsed from reception of said second signal or from sending said acknowledgement until said second workstation receives a fourth signal, said fourth signal comprising a confirmed trade signal;  
said network sending at least a third signal to said first workstation and at least said fourth signal to said second workstation, said at least third and said at least fourth signals indicating acknowledgement of said acknowledgement from said second workstation,  
wherein at least one of said network, said first workstation, and said second workstation determines when one of said acknowledgements has not been received during an interval.

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44. (Amended) The system according to claim 43, wherein said at least third signal includes a confirmed trade signal.

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56. (Four Times Amended) The method according to claim 54, wherein the step of determining when said indication that the network acknowledges the acknowledgement from said second workstation has not been received during an interval comprises the steps of:  
measuring an elapsed confirmation time from receiving the offer from the network at the second workstation or from sending from the second workstation to said network an acknowledgement of the receipt of the offer until the second workstation receives from the

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network the indication that the network received the acknowledgement of the transaction from the second workstation; and

storing an indication that the transaction is unconfirmed upon the measured elapsed confirmation time exceeding a predetermined confirmation timeout period.

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57. (Thrice Amended) The method according to claim 56, further comprising the step of:

displaying at the second workstation that a late confirmation was received after the predetermined confirmation timeout period has expired in response to the second workstation receiving after the timeout period the indication that the network received the acknowledgement of the receipt of said bid sent from the second workstation.

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59. (Five Times Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

receiving at a networked processor an offer from a first workstation in response to an initial bid;

sending the offer from the networked processor to a second workstation;

receiving at the networked processor from the second workstation an acknowledgement of a transaction based on the offer ;

sending from the networked processor to the first and second workstations an indication that the networked processor received the acknowledgement of the transaction; and

receiving an alarm from one of said workstations notifying said networked processor that said indication that the networked processor received the acknowledgement was not received by one of said workstations during an interval.

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62. (Five Times Amended)

A first workstation participating in the exchange of signals, the signals including at least a bid and an offer, the first workstation connected to a network, said network connected to at least a second workstation, said first workstation comprising:

a receiver for receiving an initial offer;

a processor for processing said initial offer;

a confirmation timer for measuring time elapsed from said workstation receiving a match notification signal or sending a match acknowledgement signal until said workstation receives a confirmed trade signal; and

an output for outputting a first signal to said network, said first signal signaling a bid in response to said initial offer;

said receiver also receiving a match notification signal wherein said match notification signal indicates the acknowledgement of a receipt of said first signal by said second workstation, and an unconfirmed trade signal when said acknowledgement was not received during an interval.

67. (Four Times Amended)

A system for exchanging signals relating to at least a bid or an offer, the system comprising:

a network connected to workstations;

a first workstation of said workstations, said first workstation sending a first signal to said network signaling a bid in response to an initial offer; and

a second workstation of said workstations, said second workstation receiving a second signal indicative of said bid transmitted from said first workstation in response to said initial offer over said network, said second workstation sending an acknowledgement of said bid

received from said first workstation over said network, said second workstation having a confirmation timer for measuring a time elapsed from reception of said second signal or from sending said acknowledgement until said second workstation receives a fourth signal, said fourth signal comprising a confirmed trade signal;

said network sending at least a third signal to said first workstation and at least said fourth signal to said second workstation, said at least third and said at least fourth signals indicating acknowledgement of said acknowledgement from said second workstation;

wherein at least one of said network, said first work station, and said second work station determines when at least one of said acknowledgements has not been received during an interval.

68. ( Five Times Amended) A system for exchanging signals relating to at least a bid and an offer, the system comprising:

a network connected to workstations;

a first workstation of said workstations, said first workstation sending a first signal to said network signaling an offer in response to an initial bid; and

a second workstation of said workstations, said second workstation receiving a second signal indicative of said offer from said network and for sending an acknowledgement of said received offer to said network, said second workstation having a confirmation timer for measuring a time elapsed from reception of said second signal or from sending said acknowledgement until said second workstation receives a fourth signal, said fourth signal comprising a confirmed trade signal;

said network sending at least a third signal to said first workstation and at least said fourth signal to said second workstation, said at least third and said at least fourth signals indicating acknowledgement of said acknowledgement from said second workstation;

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wherein at least one of said network, said first workstation, and said second workstation determines when one of said acknowledgements has not been received during an interval.

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*G8 I1* 69. (Amended) The system according to claim 68, wherein said at least third signal includes a confirmed trade signal.

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82. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 81, further comprising the step of:

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displaying at the second workstation that a late confirmation was received after the predetermined confirmation timeout period has expired in response to the second workstation receiving after the timeout period the indication that the network received the acknowledgement of the receipt of said offer sent from the second workstation.

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84. (Thrice Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

receiving at a networked processor a bid from a first workstation in response to an initial offer;

*G10 I1* sending the bid from the networked processor to a second workstation;

receiving at the networked processor from the second workstation an acknowledgement of a transaction based on the bid;

sending from the networked processor to the first and second workstations an indication that the networked processor received the acknowledgement of the transaction; and

receiving an alarm from one of said workstations notifying said network that said indication that the networked processor received the acknowledgement was not received by said one of said workstations during an interval.

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87. (Thrice Amended) A workstation participating in the exchange of signals, the signals including at least a bid and an offer, the workstation connected to a network, said network connected to at least a second workstation, said workstation comprising:

a receiver for receiving an initial bid;

a processor for processing said initial bid;

a confirmation timer for measuring time elapsed from said workstation receiving a match notification signal or sending a match acknowledgement signal until said workstation receives a confirmed trade signal; and

an output for outputting a first signal to said network, said first signal signaling an offer in response to said initial bid,

said receiver also receiving a match notification signal wherein said match notification signal indicates the acknowledgement of a receipt of said first signal by said second workstation and an unconfirmed trade signal when said acknowledgement was not received during an interval.

92. (Thrice Amended) A system for exchanging signals relating to at least a bid or an offer, the system comprising:

a network connected to workstations;

a first workstation of said workstations, said first workstation sending a first signal to said network signaling an offer in response to an initial bid; and

a second workstation of said workstations, said second workstation receiving a second signal indicative of said offer transmitted from said first workstation in response to said initial bid from over said network, said second workstation sending an acknowledgement of said offer

received from said first workstation over said network, said second workstation having a confirmation timer for measuring a time elapsed from reception of said second signal or from sending said acknowledgement until said second workstation receives a fourth signal, said fourth signal comprising a confirmed trade signal;

said network sending at least a third signal to said first workstation and at least said fourth signal to said second workstation, said at least third and said at least fourth signals indicating acknowledgement of said acknowledgement from said second workstation,

wherein at least one of said network, said first work station, and said second work station determines when at least one of said acknowledgements has not been received during an interval.

93. (Thrice Amended) A system for exchanging signals relating to at least a bid or an offer, the system comprising:

a network connected to workstations;

a first workstation of said workstations, said first workstation sending a second transaction message to said network in response to a first transaction message; and

a second workstation of said workstations, said second workstation receiving a third transaction message from said network indicative of said second transaction message and sending an acknowledgement of said received third transaction message to said network, said second workstation having a confirmation timer for measuring a time elapsed from reception of said third message or from sending said acknowledgement until said second workstation receives a fifth message, said fifth signal comprising a confirmed trade signal;

said network sending at least a fourth transaction message to said first workstation and at least said fifth transaction message to said second workstation, said at least fourth and said at least fifth transaction messages indicating acknowledgement of said acknowledgement from said

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second workstation;

wherein prior to the transmission of said second transaction message by said first workstation, said second workstation transmits said first transaction message to said network.

103. (Thrice Amended) A system for exchanging signals relating to at least a bid or an offer, the system comprising:

a network connected to workstations;

a first workstation of said workstations, said first workstation sending a second transaction message to said network in response to a first transaction message;

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a second workstation of said workstations, said second workstation receiving a third transaction message from said network indicative of said second transaction message and for sending an acknowledgement of said received third transaction message to said network, said second workstation having a confirmation timer for measuring the time elapsed from reception of said third transaction message or from sending said acknowledgement of said received third transaction message until said second workstation receives a fifth transaction message, said fifth transaction message comprising a confirmed trade signal;

said network sending at least a fourth transaction message to said first workstation and at least said fifth transaction message to said second workstation, said at least fourth and said at least fifth transaction messages indicating acknowledgement of said acknowledgement from said second workstation;

wherein said network further comprises:

a computer for matching at least bids or offers from said workstations in accordance with predetermined matching criteria.



an acknowledgement timer for measuring the time elapsed from reception of said second transaction message by said network from said first workstation until reception of said acknowledgement by said network from said second workstation; and  
a storage unit for storing an indication that a purchase was not acknowledged upon the elapsed time measured by said acknowledgement timer exceeding a predetermined acknowledgement timeout period.

107. (Amended) The method according to claim 106, further comprising the step of:  
displaying at the second workstation that a late confirmation was received, after the predetermined confirmation timeout period has expired in response to the second workstation receiving after the timeout period the indication that the network received the acknowledgement of the receipt of said first transaction message sent from the second workstation.

110. (Thrice Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:  
receiving at a networked processor a first transaction message from a second workstation;  
sending an acknowledgement of the first transaction message from the networked processor to the second workstation;  
receiving at the networked processor a second transaction message from a first workstation in response to the first transaction message;  
sending the second transaction message from the networked processor to the second workstation;  
receiving at the networked processor from the second workstation an acknowledgement of a transaction based on the second transaction message ;  
sending from the networked processor to the first and second workstations an indication

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that the networked processor received the acknowledgement of the transaction; and

receiving an alarm from one of said workstations notifying said networked processor that said indication that the networked processor received the acknowledgement was not received by one of said workstations during an interval.

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112. (Thrice Amended) A first workstation participating in the exchange of signals, the signals including at least a bid or an offer, the first workstation connected to a network, said network connected to at least a second workstation, said first workstation comprising:

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a receiver for receiving a first transaction message;

a processor for processing said first transaction message;

a confirmation timer for measuring time elapsed from said workstation receiving a match notification message or sending a match acknowledgement message until said workstation receives a confirmed trade message; and

an output for outputting a first signal to said network, said first signal signaling a second transaction message in response to said first transaction message;

said receiver also receiving a match notification message wherein said match notification message indicates the acknowledgement of a receipt of said second transaction message by said second workstation and said receiver receiving an alert from said network when said network has not received the acknowledgement of said second transaction message after a predetermined interval.

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117. (Thrice Amended) A system for exchanging signals relating to at least a bid or an offer, the system comprising:

a network connected to workstations;

a first workstation of said workstations, said first workstation sending a second

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transaction message to said network signaling a response to a first transaction message; and  
a second workstation of said workstations, said second workstation receiving a second  
signal indicative of said second transaction message transmitted from said first workstation in  
response to said first transaction message from over said network, said second workstation  
sending an acknowledgement of said second transaction message received from said first  
workstation over said network, said second workstation having a confirmation timer for  
measuring the time elapsed from reception of said second transaction message or sending said  
acknowledgement of said second transaction message until said second workstation receives a  
fourth transaction message, said fourth transaction message comprising a confirmed trade signal;  
said network sending at least a third transaction message to said first workstation and at  
least said fourth transaction message to said second workstation, said at least third transaction  
message and said at least fourth transaction message indicating acknowledgement of said  
acknowledgement from said second workstation said network providing an alert when said  
acknowledgement has not been received after a predetermined interval.

#### REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.  
Claims 43, 44, 56, 57, 59, 62, 67-69, 82, 84, 87, 92, 93, 103, 107, 110, 112 and 117 have been  
amended. Claim 120 has been cancelled. Claims 57, 59, 82, 84, 107 and 110 have been  
amended to further the define what Applicants claim as their invention. The basis for the above  
amendments may be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

Claims 43-95, 97-101, 103, 104, 106-108 and 110-117 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §  
103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Silverman et al. EP0399850 (hereinafter